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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments and non-governmental organizations

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

JAPAN

[Original: English]
12 October 1964

The Government of Japan has no particular suggestions or proposals to offer at this moment for the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights.

PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]
15 October 1964

As a member of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights, the Philippine delegate collaborated with the Chairman and other officers of the Committee in the preparation of the working paper, "Programme of Measures and Activities to be Undertaken in Connexion with the International Year for Human Rights" (ST/SG/AC.5/3). The views of the Philippine Government are, therefore, reflected in that working paper. At this juncture, the Philippine Government would like to emphasize some points which are mentioned in the aforementioned document and to which it attaches considerable importance:

(a) The Committee should give priority to those activities which will help bring about substantial progress in the advancement of human rights. The activities undertaken should not be merely commemorative in nature; they should aim at truly contributing to the actual enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

(b) The setting up of national advisory committees "to examine the national constitution or fundamental law and all existing national legislation against the standard of the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to consider in what respects the legislation falls short of this standard, and to suggest to the Government the enactment of

amending laws to bring the national legislation into conformity with the principles of the Declaration", will be highly useful. The fact that the reports of these committees are to be submitted not later than the end of 1967 could contribute to the preparatory work of the proposed international conference on human rights in 1968.

(c) An international conference on human rights, in whatever form it may be held, must have specific objectives if it is at all to be successful. A review of progress in human rights is much needed and a conference organized for this purpose could generate fresh interest and positive action among Member States.

(d) The establishment and refinement of national machineries for the implementation of human rights and freedoms will be an important step.

(e) The role of education in removing prejudice and discriminatory attitudes is a central one. Since education is a continuous process, the Committee, with the help of appropriate specialized agencies, could find effective ways and means by which the inculcation of respect for human rights and individual freedoms could be effectively brought about among children, adolescents and adults. The Committee should envisage these educational activities as part of the celebration for the International Year for Human Rights.

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

[Original: English]
12 October 1964

Our Executive Board has authorized the following observations on behalf of our Federation:

Paragraph 13

The World Veterans Federation welcomes the concept of a calendar of activities which would provide a focus for assessment and improvement by Governments of their actions in these fields. We also consider it as the best means of maximizing the collective efforts of the various non-governmental organizations who can concentrate their activities accordingly and in keeping with their individual spheres of interest. We would particularly urge that the governmental assessments be published in full and publicly.

Paragraphs 16 to 18

The World Veterans Federation fully concurs with the desirability of seeing the draft covenants adopted by the end of 1968. We would wish to underline, however, the sentiment expressed in the referenced paragraphs that the adoption of implementing machinery as an integral part of these covenants is vitally important. We would not wish to urge the adoption of the covenants in or before 1968 without such machinery. We would also wish to suggest that the current triennial reports be put on an annual basis and that the full reports and not just summaries be made available to organizations with competence in these fields. Further, we are whole-heartedly in agreement with the importance which has been placed upon the complementary development of national institutions for the protection of human rights. At its Council meeting in May of this year, the World Veterans Federation has decided upon a programme furthering such objectives through

Paragraphs 26 and 27

The World Veterans Federation is prepared to consider which of the suggested actions by non-governmental organizations would be most appropriate for us to undertake and there may be others which we can suggest. We note that the current listing does not mention the possibility of featuring articles in the periodicals of such organizations and suggest that this be added. In C 26a, it is suggested that special conferences might be held but the potential of seminars might also be added. Also the non-governmental organizations might have a role to play in helping to urge the signature and ratification of treaties and conventions as suggested in B 24(b).

We wonder if the Committee has considered the possibility of establishing some sort of central co-ordinating and information point for the Year's activities. We believe that such a central point could have a reinforcing and stimulative effect through providing examples, reminders and information upon what other bodies are doing.

Paragraphs 28-37

The World Veterans Federation strongly supports the idea of holding an international conference as outlined in the referenced paragraphs. We believe that such a conference should be envisaged with the extensive participation in preparation and implementation by non-governmental organizations with competence in these fields.

Paragraph 40

The World Veterans Federation concurs in the desirability of the objectives listed in the referenced paragraph. While we feel that their achievement may not prove possible during the International Year for Human Rights, we do feel that an intensified effort should be made to establish institutions which are a prerequisite for the achievement of these objectives. We further feel that the sub-paragraph (3) needs clarification as to what exactly is intended.

Paragraph 45

We would like to suggest that "national and international voluntary

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

[Original: English]
9 October 1964

The [International Conference of Catholic charities has] considerable interest in the International Year for Human Rights but at present [has] no specific suggestions or proposals for the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with it.

WORLD ALLIANCE OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

[Original: English]
3 August 1964

We would like to join in the observation of this year as we have been and are happy to co-operate with the United Nations in many other projects.